

CANADIAN PHILATELY – AN OUTLINE

A Summary of Collecting Areas and Interests
of British North America Collectors



John Burnett, Gray Scrimgeour, and Victor Willson

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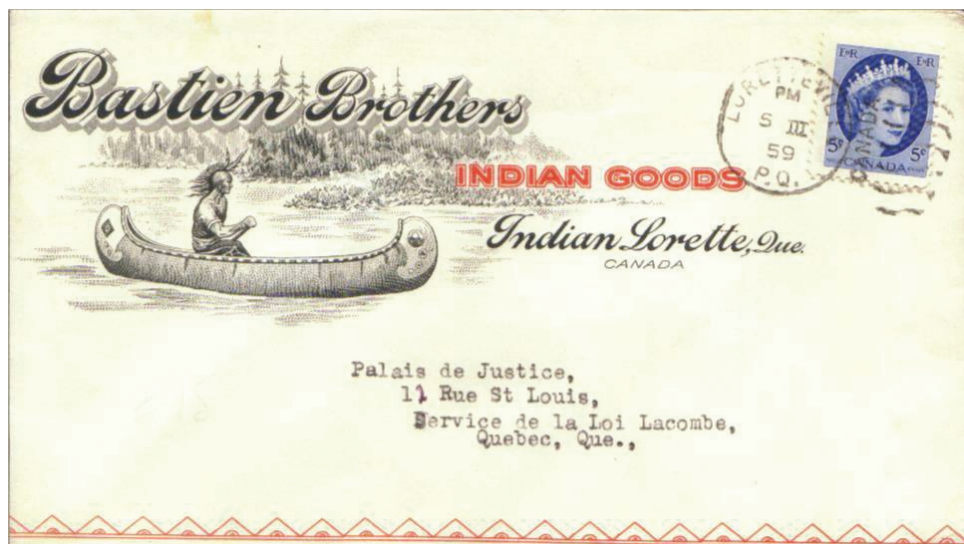
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A summary of collecting areas and interests
of British North America collectors

Including stamps and other philatelic material of
Canada

British Columbia and Vancouver Island

New Brunswick

Newfoundland

Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island

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I. PURPOSES OF THE HANDBOOK

In 1981 Ed Richardson completed a project he had conceived and written himself to introduce the variety of collecting available in Canadian philately. One author (Vic Willson) participated marginally as a new collector of Canada but as an experienced editor and writer in social science research. That work, *Canada-B.N.A. Philately (an Outline)*, was intended for the neophyte, or the collector who collected “by Scotts” as Ed noted, to introduce them to the many collecting areas available to them. Ed was uniquely situated to write the pamphlet. No one, not even Fred Jarrett, collected more broadly than Ed Richardson, who once told Vic he had over 250 different, separate collections in all areas of Canada and its British North America (BNA) relatives, the colonies of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Vancouver Island-British Columbia when they were separate stamp-issuing entities.

Ed’s product was supported and printed by the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), Ed’s primary philatelic affiliation. BNAPS provided the 64-page booklet to new members. It became a classic soon after its issuance, and no other society or collecting group has produced anything comparable. Perhaps because Canada (and BNA) is sufficiently circumscribed yet still broad, it can be reasonably presented in such an overview form.

We have tried to summarize what can be found in each topic we have listed. This is *not* an encyclopedia—it does not give all information about the stamps or topics we discuss. We do try to give you the reader a sense of what will be needed to focus on each topic, including general statements about rarity, expense, or availability (these three are not the same thing; some very rare items catalogue for little because few people seek them out). Ed noted that Canada did not have the equivalent of the U.S. *Specialized Stamp Catalog*, but his booklet went far beyond what commercial specialized catalogues, even the U.S. specialized, have published.

II. SPECIALIZATION: What is it? An Example

The history of stamp collecting began with the pasting of 1d black stamps on walls in London, England in the 1840s. After a few other countries issued stamps, collecting progressed to pasting the stamps in ledger books. By the 1860s, sellers of stamps began advertising the sale of postage stamps of the world. Collecting became quite popular, and collectors tried to get an example of each stamp from issuing countries around the world, including both postage stamps and tax stamps. A few collectors in the 1800s began to require that the stamps remain on letters, called entires or covers. Some collectors only sought stamps from one country or political entity, such as the British Empire. This is how our specialization began.

Today specialization is a necessity for any collector because the time of being able to assemble a strong general, worldwide collection is past. Specialization means that one studies a particular aspect of collecting and seeks detail to the greatest possible extent. The choice of area is dictated by the availability of material, the costs associated with acquiring it, and the time and knowledge needed to make an in-depth study. In that sense, specialization has taken on the elements of research in